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# Quarterly Benefit Statistics

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board  
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## Railroad Retirement and Unemployment Insurance Programs

Selected Current Statistics for **October - December 2007**

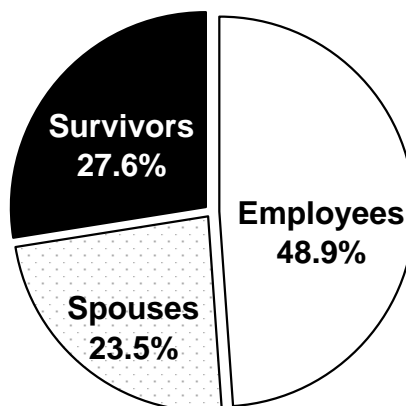
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### Railroad Retirement and Survivor Beneficiaries on the Rolls, by Type, December 2007

(567,000 beneficiaries)



**NOTE.**--Some 4,400 employees also received spouse annuities and about 2,700 employees also received survivor annuities.

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics  
October - December 2007**

Period	Total <sup>1</sup>		Employee annuities				Spouse annuities	Divorced spouse annuities
			Age	Disability <sup>2</sup>		Supple- mental		
	Monthly benefits	Monthly beneficiaries		Under full retirement age	Full retirement age and over			
Number in current-payment status at end of period								
December 2007	695,456	567,040	192,976	50,373	34,095	121,321	133,901	3,567
November 2007	695,617	567,180	193,095	50,359	34,018	121,341	133,772	3,553
October 2007	695,813	567,482	193,120	50,378	33,958	121,254	133,741	3,533
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period								
December 2007	.....	.....	\$1,935.51	\$2,249.18	\$1,753.06	\$41.69	\$732.99	\$452.37
November 2007	.....	.....	1,899.56	2,206.25	1,718.11	41.69	719.82	442.57
October 2007	.....	.....	1,895.11	2,204.35	1,714.50	41.69	718.28	443.21
Number awarded during period								
December 2007	2,388	2,031	446	282	.....	357	659	32
November 2007	3,131	2,539	770	285	.....	592	805	42
October 2007	3,452	2,764	893	325	.....	688	858	40
10/07 - 12/07	8,971	7,334	2,109	892	.....	1,637	2,322	114
10/06 - 12/06	8,889	7,188	2,068	879	.....	1,701	2,277	113
Average amount awarded during period <sup>3</sup>								
December 2007	.....	.....	\$2,591.51	\$2,579.38	.....	\$41.09	\$956.00	\$498.90
November 2007	.....	.....	2,595.25	2,482.32	.....	41.43	859.14	450.07
October 2007	.....	.....	2,660.05	2,344.41	.....	41.45	960.49	426.55
Benefit payments during period (thousands)								
December 2007	\$823,156	.....	\$367,163	\$114,537	\$58,353	\$5,040	\$97,053	\$1,615
November 2007	823,104	.....	367,213	114,902	58,127	5,077	97,073	1,625
October 2007	821,923	.....	366,421	114,194	58,366	5,072	96,837	1,613
10/07 - 12/07	2,468,183	.....	1,100,797	343,633	174,846	15,189	290,963	4,853
10/06 - 12/06	2,420,892	.....	1,070,776	334,180	177,876	15,255	283,587	4,545

<sup>1</sup>Includes dependent parents' annuities. Except for benefit payment data, excludes insurance lump-sum and residual payment figures. Benefit payments also include hospital insurance benefits for services in Canada.

<sup>2</sup>Full retirement age, also known as normal retirement age, is gradually increasing from age 65 to age 67 over a 22 year period. For those born 1/2/1942-1/1/1943, the normal retirement age is 65 and 10 months.

<sup>3</sup>Regular employee and spouse annuity averages are preliminary estimates.

**NOTE** --MONTHLY BENEFITS in CURRENT-PAYMENT STATUS at the end of month include all benefits awarded to date and payable for the month.

BENEFITS AWARDED consist of those certified for the first time on either a partial or final basis.

BENEFIT PAYMENTS for a month, shown in both the benefit and financial statistics, consist of recurrent monthly checks dated the first of the month, plus retroactive and lump-sum payments made during the month, less returned checks (excluding those not yet distributed by Account), refunds of benefits paid previously, etc. Data are on a cash basis (unaudited) and are partly estimated.

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics  
October - December 2007 -- Continued**

Survivor benefits									
Period	Annuities					Children	Insurance lump sums	Residual payments	Divorced partition payments <sup>4</sup>
	Aged widows and widowers	Disabled widows and widowers	Widowed mothers and fathers	Remarried widows and widowers	Divorced widows and widowers				
Number in current-payment status at end of period									
December 2007	128,362	4,572	860	4,730	9,595	11,043	.....	.....	18
November 2007	128,610	4,576	863	4,733	9,593	11,052	.....	.....	8
October 2007	128,949	4,579	867	4,740	9,591	11,054	.....	.....	5
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period									
December 2007	\$1,193.76	\$1,006.68	\$1,488.82	\$800.95	\$793.33	\$875.38	.....	.....	\$273.93
November 2007	1,178.19	992.96	1,480.30	782.58	775.29	856.34	.....	.....	251.41
October 2007	1,175.57	992.04	1,474.10	782.75	774.41	854.03	.....	.....	291.00
Number awarded during period									
December 2007	496	11	10	11	49	35	285	1	.....
November 2007	497	12	11	13	55	49	265	4	.....
October 2007	508	19	12	23	45	41	348	5	.....
10/07 - 12/07	1,501	42	33	47	149	125	898	10	.....
10/06 - 12/06	1,451	39	34	45	155	127	983	6	.....
Average amount awarded during period <sup>3</sup>									
December 2007	\$1,552.25	\$1,370.27	\$1,674.07	\$1,071.27	\$698.04	\$1,122.23	\$893	\$407	.....
November 2007	1,563.68	1,357.12	1,596.59	812.15	869.07	1,168.39	873	1,931	.....
October 2007	1,540.60	1,325.13	1,659.27	820.17	892.24	1,193.73	897	1,110	.....
Benefit payments during period (thousands)									
December 2007	\$152,042	\$4,668	\$1,343	\$3,723	\$7,503	\$9,771	\$278	(5)	\$2
November 2007	151,721	4,644	1,344	3,715	7,495	9,872	248	9	1
October 2007	151,863	4,711	1,378	3,730	7,485	9,873	334	6	1
10/07 - 12/07	455,626	14,023	4,065	11,168	22,483	29,516	860	15	4
10/06 - 12/06	453,724	13,714	4,131	11,010	21,796	29,217	935	23	.....

<sup>4</sup>Effective August 17, 2007. Limited to post employee death tier II partition payments to divorced spouses. <sup>5</sup>Less than \$500.

**NOTE** --(Continued from previous page.)

FOR WIDOWS and WIDOWERS aged 60 and over and WIDOWED MOTHERS and FATHERS, the number of benefits being paid and benefit payments include benefits temporarily being continued at spouse annuity rates, pending award of survivor annuities.

INSURANCE LUMP SUMS and RESIDUAL PAYMENTS are each counted only once with respect to an employee's death even though divided among 2 or more persons. Award data for insurance lump sums exclude deferred benefits, i.e., those payable a year after the employee's death.

Data on benefit payments are for CALENDAR MONTHS; all other data are for ACCOUNTING MONTHS ending on approximately the 22nd of each month.

**Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics**  
**October - December 2007 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited)**

Item	December 2007	November 2007	October 2007	October 2007 - December 2007	October 2006 - December 2006
<b>RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period<sup>1</sup></b>	\$560,125	\$527,832	\$616,854	\$616,854	\$479,392
<b>Income, total</b>	247,338	477,789	358,751	1,083,878	1,212,397
Payroll taxes <sup>2</sup>	145,306	157,877	172,912	476,094	469,546
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	83,000	83,000	78,000
Reimbursements for payment of SSA benefits	100,603	103,239	102,919	306,761	300,590
Transfers from National RR Investment Trust <sup>4</sup>	.....	215,000	.....	215,000	359,000
Transfer from SSEB Account <sup>4</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments <sup>5</sup>	58	46	-91	13	685
Uncashed check credits from U.S. Treasury <sup>6</sup>	40	41	53	134	60
Interest on investments <sup>7</sup>	1,331	1,586	-41	2,876	4,516
<b>Outgo, total</b>	437,846	445,496	447,774	1,331,116	1,333,746
Benefit payments-regular	331,202	330,959	329,885	992,046	999,487
Benefit payments-supplemental	5,040	5,077	5,072	15,189	15,255
Payments of SSA benefits	100,941	103,209	102,813	306,963	300,678
Administrative expenses <sup>8</sup>	407	5,891	9,489	15,787	17,046
Funding for Office of Inspector General	257	360	514	1,130	1,281
<b>Balance at end of period<sup>1</sup></b>	369,617	560,125	527,832	369,617	358,043
<b>NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST</b>					
<b>Cash and investment balance at end of period<sup>9</sup></b>	\$31,942,593	\$32,137,869	\$33,566,096	\$31,942,593	\$30,892,975
<b>DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT<sup>10</sup></b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	-\$13,577	-\$6,816	.....	.....	.....
Congressional apportionments <sup>11</sup>	(12)	(12)	-\$2,000	-\$1,999	-\$1,999
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	2,000	2,000	2,000
Vested dual benefit payments	6,689	6,761	6,816	20,266	22,507
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	-20,266	-13,577	-6,816	-20,266	-22,507

**Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics**  
**October - December 2007 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited) -- Continued**

Item	December 2007	November 2007	October 2007	October 2007 - December 2007	October 2006 - December 2006
<b>SOCIAL SECURITY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$753,473	\$785,220	\$744,247	\$744,247	\$717,361
<b>Income, total</b>	484,663	452,295	526,301	1,463,259	1,410,462
Payroll taxes <sup>2</sup>	195,758	197,628	207,118	600,505	558,114
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	34,000	34,000	30,000
Financial interchange advances <sup>13</sup>	286,784	252,640	285,297	824,722	816,069
RRB-SSA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Interest on investments <sup>7</sup>	2,121	2,026	-115	4,032	6,279
<b>Outgo, total</b>	488,503	484,042	485,328	1,457,873	1,391,338
Benefit payments	480,226	480,307	480,149	1,440,681	1,383,643
Repayment of financial interchange advances <sup>13</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
RRB-CMS financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Transfer to Railroad Retirement Account <sup>4</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Administrative expenses <sup>8</sup>	8,144	3,549	4,913	16,606	7,221
Funding for Office of Inspector General	133	186	266	586	474
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	749,634	753,473	785,220	749,634	736,485

<sup>1</sup>Balances include liabilities for uncashed checks. As of the end of December 2007, liabilities were \$10,631,000. <sup>2</sup>Net of U.S. Treasury adjustments for payroll tax refunds to certain carriers and their employees for prior periods. October 2007 RR Account and SSEB Account amounts reflect refunds of \$3.8 million and \$4.9 million, respectively. <sup>3</sup>Amounts include U.S. Treasury adjustments for prior period income tax reconciliations. <sup>4</sup>Under the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001, as amended, the portion of the RR Account not needed to pay current administrative expenses is to be transferred to the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (Trust). The Trust may transfer funds back to the RR Account for payment of benefits. The balance of the SSEB Account not needed to pay current benefits and administrative expenses is to be transferred to the Trust or to the RR Account. <sup>5</sup>Net of amounts distributed by account. <sup>6</sup>Net of returns of uncashed check credits. Includes undistributed canceled checks under 1-year limited payability. <sup>7</sup>Net of adjustments for payroll tax refunds (see note 2). October 2007 RR Account and SSEB Account amounts reflect refunds of \$1.4 million and \$1.8 million, respectively. <sup>8</sup>Reflects adjustments for prior periods. December amount reflects adjustment to reallocate fiscal year 2007 administrative expenses between the Railroad Retirement Act and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act programs. RR Account: -\$5,027,000, SSEB Account: +\$5,388,000. <sup>9</sup>Source: National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust. <sup>10</sup>Total vested dual benefits paid during a fiscal year are limited to the amount appropriated to the Dual Benefits Payments Account for that year. Any amounts not spent are returned to the U.S. Treasury. The benefit appropriation for fiscal year 2008 was \$79.0 million, including income tax transfers. The appropriation for fiscal year 2007 was \$88.0 million, including income tax transfers. Funds for October through December 2006 and 2007 were provided under a partial year continuing resolution. <sup>11</sup>Includes a small amount of interest on uncashed checks. <sup>12</sup>Less than \$500. <sup>13</sup>Includes interest.

**NOTE.**--Data relate to CALENDAR month.

**Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.**

**Table 3: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Benefit Statistics  
October - December 2007**

Period	Normal benefit accounts			Beneficiaries		
	Applications received	Opened	Exhausted	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits
<b>Unemployment</b>						
December 2007	1,339	732	65	3,525	3,511	30
November 2007	877	617	44	3,117	3,111	24
October 2007	863	704	15	2,940	2,921	43
7/07 - 12/07	7,305	5,227	225	6,040	5,993	220
7/06 - 12/06	6,478	4,382	273	5,349	5,282	294
<b>Sickness</b>						
December 2007	1,294	1,055	68	5,646	5,614	67
November 2007	1,337	1,218	60	5,853	5,835	50
October 2007	1,649	1,396	36	6,089	6,042	95
7/07 - 12/07	14,294	11,257	418	12,132	11,952	707
7/06 - 12/06	14,555	11,480	446	12,414	12,205	761
Period	Number of payments			Averages <sup>1</sup>		
	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits	Benefit days	Benefit per week	Benefit payments (thousands)
<b>Unemployment</b>						
December 2007	5,686	5,637	49	9.0	\$291.35	\$3,526
November 2007	5,635	5,594	41	9.1	292.20	2,905
October 2007	5,413	5,340	73	9.1	291.85	3,459
7/07 - 12/07	29,339	28,436	903	9.0	291.45	13,727
7/06 - 12/06	24,289	23,013	1,276	9.0	280.35	15,273
<b>Sickness</b>						
December 2007	9,828	9,702	126	9.0	\$292.00	\$3,899
November 2007	10,794	10,710	84	9.1	292.65	3,861
October 2007	11,442	11,256	186	9.1	292.25	5,224
7/07 - 12/07	63,091	60,409	2,682	9.0	292.50	25,937
7/06 - 12/06	65,384	62,372	3,012	9.0	283.55	24,513

<sup>1</sup>Benefit days--average benefit days per registration period. Benefit per week--equal to 5 times average daily benefit.

**NOTE**---An unemployment claimant files only one APPLICATION for a benefit year. A sickness claimant files an APPLICATION at the beginning of each period of continuing sickness.

NORMAL BENEFIT ACCOUNTS are opened when the first payment is made.

The number of BENEFICIARIES is the count of persons receiving unemployment or sickness benefits in the period. Those receiving both normal and extended benefits for unemployment or sickness are counted only once in the total for each type.

PAYMENTS generally cover 14-day registration periods. Benefits are payable for days over 7 during an employee's first 14-day registration period. Sickness benefits are paid for days of sickness after the 4th consecutive day of sickness in the first claim in each period of continuing sickness; for subsequent registration periods in the same period of continuing sickness, payments are made for all days of sickness over 4 whether or not consecutive. Unemployment benefits are paid for days of unemployment over 4. However, in the case of unemployment benefits due to a legal authorized strike, unemployment benefits are not paid until after a 14-day waiting period. Non-strikers unemployed due to an illegal strike must also serve a 14-day waiting period.

(Continued on next page.)

**Table 4: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Financial Statistics**  
**October - December 2007 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited)**

Item	December 2007	November 2007	October 2007	October 2007 - December 2007	October 2006 - December 2006
<b>RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$106,776	\$113,586	\$104,316	\$104,316	\$99,606
<b>Income, total</b>	1,206	111	18,173	19,490	16,746
Contributions <sup>1</sup>	-8	341	16,552	16,885	16,062
Interest on investments	1,326	14	1,300	2,639	1,238
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments <sup>2</sup>	-112	-244	322	-34	-555
Transfers from Administration Fund	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<b>Outgo, total</b>	7,535	6,920	8,903	23,358	24,336
Unemployment benefit payments	3,526	2,905	3,459	9,889	9,590
Sickness benefit payments	3,899	3,861	5,224	12,985	14,251
Funding for Office of Inspector General	110	154	220	484	495
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	100,447	106,776	113,586	100,447	92,016
<b>RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION FUND</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$11,653	\$13,129	\$9,907	\$9,907	\$10,163
<b>Income, total</b>	133	84	5,620	5,837	5,682
Contributions <sup>1</sup>	-3	84	5,503	5,585	5,547
Interest on investments	136	.....	117	252	135
<b>Outgo, total</b>	995	1,561	2,398	4,953	4,233
Administrative expenses	995	1,561	2,398	4,953	4,233
Transfers to RUI Account	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	10,791	11,653	13,129	10,791	11,611

<sup>1</sup>The negative amount for December is attributable to an accounting adjustment. <sup>2</sup>Net of distributed amounts.

**NOTE**.--(Continued from previous page.)

BENEFIT PAYMENTS are on a cash basis (unaudited) and represent amounts paid during the period including retroactive payments, less recoveries distributed to beneficiary accounts, refunds, and cancellations of previous payments.

ADMINISTRATION FUND balances reflect current adjustments to income and disbursements for previous years.  
All unemployment and sickness data relate to CALENDAR MONTHS.

**Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.**

<b>Table 5: Benefits and Beneficiaries -- December 2007</b>
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**RETIREMENT - SURVIVOR**

<b>Total benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)</b>	\$823,156,000
Regular benefits	811,427,000
Vested dual benefits	6,689,000
Supplemental annuities	5,040,000

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>Total benefits being paid at end of month</b>	695,000	.....
Retired employees':		
Regular	277,000	\$1,970
Supplemental	121,000	42
Spouses' and divorced spouses'	137,000	726
Aged widows' and widowers'	128,000	1,194
Other survivors'	31,000	875
<b>Total beneficiaries being paid at end of month</b>	567,000	.....

**UNEMPLOYMENT-SICKNESS**

	<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>Sickness</b>
<b>Benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)</b>	\$3,526,000	\$3,899,000
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	3,500	5,600
<b>Average payment per week</b>	\$291	\$292